

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: ADS 12/31/75

TAGS: OEXC,UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES:CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: DRAMA GROUP
FOR 1975

REF:A)MOSCOW 4206, B) STATE 62306

1. SINCE RECEIPT REFTEL A. MATTER OF PLAY TO REPLACE
MATCHMAKER HAS BEEN TOPIC OF LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITHIN
A.C.T. AND BETWEEN A.C.T. AND DEPT. A.C.T. INFORMED
DEPT APRIL 1 THAT MATCHMAKER REMAINS DIRECTOR BALL'S
CHOICE AS COMPANION TO DESIRE.

2. BALL'S STATED PREFERENCE FOR MATCHMAKER BASED ON SENSE OF

ARTISTIC PRIDE AND HIS BELIEF THAT A.C.T. CAN PRODUCE AN
EXCITING, VITAL PRODUCTION ACCEPTABLE TO SOVS. MATCHMAKER
IS MAJOR PRODUCTION IN A.C.T.'S 1975-76 SEASON. THIS
REINFORCED BY FACT THAT FAMED AMERICAN ACTRESS SADA
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THOMPSON, WINNER OF 1974 ANTOINETTE PERRY AWARD WILL PLAY

LEADING ROLE MRS. LEVY. ADMITTEDLY, THIS MAY NOT MEET EMB
DESIRE. HOWEVER, HOWARD STEIN IN CONVERSATION WITH CU/ARTS
DIRECTOR, WHILE RECOGNIZING EMB DESIRE FOR A PLAY OTHER

THAN MATCHMAKER, STATED THAT BALL'S REPUTATION FOR
ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE, HIS ABILITY TO PRESENT VITAL AND
VIVID PRODUCTION OF MATCHMAKER ARGUES WELL IN FAVOR OF
ITS ACCEPTANCE.

3. APPRECIATE EMB RECONSIDER ITS VIEWS WITHIN ABOVE
CONTEXT AND ADVISE DEPT NO LATER THAN O/B FRIDAY APRIL 4.
EARLIEST AGREEMENT ON SECOND PLAY ESSENTIAL IF WE TO
AVOID DIFFICULTIES INHERENT WITH PROLONGED DELAYS. A.C.T.
MUST PROCEED HIRE ACTORS AND PROCEED WITH ARRANGEMENTS
INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS RE ADVANCE VISIT. ADVISE.
KISSINGER

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